

I oppose any approval of bear hunting in Connecticut. I live in Simsbury, and spend a great deal of time outside. Yes, bears have been in my yard, and I have seen bears while out hiking. However a bear has never been aggressive in any way towards me. All the research shows that bears truly have no interest in humans. They are interested in food. Therefore it is us humans fault when a bear begins to act “aggressive” in our presence. I support non-lethal solutions to human-bear interactions. Research also shows that hunting has no impact on “nuisance” bears. These bears only come into communities to take advantage of easy food sources provided by homeowners. It is DEEP’s responsibility to educate the public about bears, not to advocate hunting of bears! Non-lethal solutions are effective. Connecticut needs to invest in these solutions, and ensure we are taking all the steps necessary to properly manage these important and beautiful creatures. Black Bears are crucial to the forest ecosystem. I strongly oppose any bear hunting in Connecticut.

Tracy Bodine

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